



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

October 2014 – Our next regular meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 16, 7 PM at Mayfair Mall community room, lower level. Our upcoming show is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5 at Serb Hall. Bill Spencer will make a presentation at the meeting. Our annual banquet is Oct. 25, 6 PM, at Alioto's on Mayfair Rd.

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road).

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: Joe Paonessa
Sgt. at Arms: Stu Caddell
Trustee '14-'16: Leon Saryan
Librarian: Joe Paonessa

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: Lee Hartz
Trustee '12-'14: Tom Dallmann
Trustee '13-'15: Gary Bieringer
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October Coin of the Month: This month we will auction off a 32 mm proof brass medal of the state of Georgia, probably issued by the Franklin Mint. Condition is virtually flawless. Starting price for this exceptionally nice piece is just \$4.



October 2014 MNS President's Message

By the time you read this message our Club's annual coin show will have come and gone, marking another successful show to end the year. A big thank you to everyone who did their part in making it the success that it always is! Many raffle tickets were sold, but only a few lucky people will win. Find out who at the October meeting, where we will draw for the prizes.

At the last club meeting in September we played a numismatic trivia game. Although some of the questions were mildly dated and very esoteric, it still went quite well and seemed to be enjoyed by all the members in attendance. There were still a lot of questions in the deck that went unasked, so we will probably hold a similar trivia game again sometime next year. You will notice on the calendar in this newsletter that we are already looking forward to 2015. The slots are wide open for refreshments and programming, so please let me know if you can chip in and help with this portion of our meeting.

The nomination committee has been actively searching for members that are willing to serve their club in an official capacity. Right now we have all of the usual five officers and one trustee position up for election at the December meeting. I believe they have found members to serve in all but one of those openings, but it is not too late to approach the committee if you are still interested in serving. The plan is to have the slate of nominees named at the October meeting, and then published in the November newsletter.

The very limited edition Red Books that the Club overprinted for the occasion of our 80th Anniversary are now in. Only twenty-five of them were printed, and they are available at the very reasonable price of only \$15 each. They were first available for sale at the show at Serb Hall, and if there are any left I will bring them to the October meeting. Hopefully all of the members who wanted one were able to purchase a copy. Thank you to Bill Spencer for supplying these Red Books to the Club, and for his services in the overprinting on the cover!

The annual Club Banquet at Alioto's is fast approaching on October 25th. Please be sure that you have spoken with VP Jim H. concerning your meal selection. Remember, if you volunteered at least three hours at the show you then qualify for a free meal. As I mentioned before, our speaker will be Dennis Kois, Director of the Milwaukee Public Museum. I hope to see many of you there!

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.785.7663

November is Auction Month. Please submit your list of items to Dave Hunsicker at the October 16 meeting, or by email to davehuns@yahoo.com. Deadline for submissions is October 26.

On pages 6-8 of this newsletter we are serializing member Bruce Bartelt's article on exotic beasts on ancient Roman coins, which appeared last February in *The Numismatist*. The second half of the article will be printed next month. Congratulations, Bruce, on a great article!

MN\$ 2014-15

Schedule

Monthly meetings in 2014-15 are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. All visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Oct 16:	Bill Spencer: "Things People Do to Money" & Raffle drawing
Nov 20:	Auction (Dave H)
Dec 18:	Officer Elections; Holiday Party
Jan 15:	Officer Inductions
Feb 19:	Open
March 19:	Open
April 16:	Open
May 21:	Open
June 18:	Open
July 16:	Open
Aug 20:	Open
Sept 17:	Open
Oct 15:	Open
Nov 19:	Open
Dec 17:	Holiday Party

Annual Dues

Dues for 2015 are \$10. They may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$50. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.785.7663 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2014-15 Numismatic Events

October 25	Annual MNS Banquet at Alioto's; Social 6 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM
October 26	Elgin, IL Coin Club Show Elgin Moose Family Center 925 S. McLean Blvd. 9 AM-4 PM
Nov. 20-23	PCDA Show, Rosemont, IL Crowne Plaza Hotel
Feb. 15, 2015	Oshkosh Coin Show Oshkosh Convention Ctr. 2 N. Main St., 9 AM-4 PM
March 8, 2015	Waukesha Coin Club Show New Berlin Ale House 16000 W. Cleveland Ave. 9 AM-4 PM
March 19-21	South Shore CC Show Crowne Plaza Hotel 6401 S. 13 th St, Milw.
March 21	Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7 AM
April 22-25	CSNS Annual Show, Schaumburg, IL
May 15-16	NOW/WI Valley CC Show Old Car Show Bldg. 700 E. State St. Iola, WI
May 23	CSNS Paper Currency Seminar, Clarion Airport Hotel, 8 AM- 4 PM

Refreshment Schedule

Oct:	Justin Perrault
Nov:	Leon Adraktas
Dec:	Holiday Pizza Gang
Jan:	Open
Feb:	Open
Mar:	Open
Apr:	Open
May:	Open
Jun:	Open
Jul:	Open
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Pizza Gang

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

September 18, 2014

President Justin Perrault called the 950th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:03 pm on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at Mayfair Mall's lower level community room. There were 32 members and 2 guests in attendance. President Perrault led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no door prizes due to the Numismatic Trivia game.

Coin of the Month: Coin of the month was not auctioned.

Minutes: The minutes for August were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: We had a loss of \$109.66 for the month of August.

Correspondence: We received the latest issue of the Numismatist, and a newsletter from Racine Numismatic Society.

Newsletter: Leon edits, prints, and mails the newsletter each month. Address changes are requested, and short 1 to 2 page articles can always be used.

Vice President: Programs and refreshments are covered for the rest of the year.

Membership: Bob Giese of Menomonee Falls has been approved, and Floyd Aprill has applied for membership.

Librarian: A book, *Numismatourist* has been added to our library.

Website: The web site has been updated with photos, club exhibit forms, and info on Neil's recent Farran Zerbe award.

Old Business: The West Bend Community Memorial Library was very happy with the books donated by MNS.

CSNS Program in May 2015: Thje CSNS has offered to sponsor 4 speakers for an all-day program on paper money in May of 2015, to be held in Milwaukee. Experts Wendell Wolka, Peter Huntoon, Neil Shafer, and Bill Brandimore are the scheduled presenters. Tentative date is May 23 at the Clarion Hotel Airport.

New Business: The club banquet will be held October 25 at Alioto's, as last year. Drinks at 6 PM, dinner at 6:30. Guest speaker is Dennis Kois of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Upcoming shows: The MNS annual show is on October 5; Elgin, Illinois on October 26; and Green Bay on November 2

Game Night: Tonight we played a numismatic trivia card game put out by Coin World 25 years ago. We chose to go with the easy questions, which turned out to be difficult enough to stump many. When the smoke cleared, the right side of the room had won.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

Respectfully submitted, &c, &c, Joe Paonessa

MNS Members Win Exhibit Awards at ANA

The ANA convention held in early August at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois, is one of the largest coin shows of the year. Competitive educational exhibiting is an attraction for many. MNS members, taking advantage of the nearby location, did well again this year.

Class 3: Medals, Orders, Decorations and Badges, Burton Saxton/George Bauer Memorial. First place: Darrell E. Luedtke, for "A Complete Collection of Wooden Medals of the 1876 U.S. Centennial."

Class 5: Tokens, B.P. Wright Memorial. First place: Darrell E. Luedtke, for "The Origins of the First Wooden Money of the United States."

Class 9: Coins Issued Prior to 1500 A.D., Dr. Charles W. Crowe Memorial. Second place: Bruce D. Bartelt, for "From Croesus to Caesar: Coinage from the First Millennium B.C."

Class 10: Regional U.S. Numismatics, William C. Henderson/Fred Cihon Memorial. Third place: Darrell E. Luedtke, for "Wooden Money from the Great State of Illinois."

Class 18: General, Specialized, and Topical, Robert Hendershott Memorial. First place: Darrell E. Luedtke, for "The Wonderful World of Wooden Money."

Congratulations to Darrell Luedtke and Bruce Bartelt. In addition, Darrell took more gold awards than any other exhibitor as well as more total awards than any other exhibitor.

And, your newsletter editor Leon Saryan made a presentation at the ANA to the meeting of the International Primitive Money Society (August 8), entitled "Money in Armenia Prior to the Introduction of Coinage." He has been invited to give the same talk in Chicago on October 8 to the regular monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club.

Editorial—Your Newsletter's a Bargain

Producing the monthly MNS newsletter is a team effort, and thanks are due to everyone who contributes to the endeavor. Courtesy of Josh W we have address labels produced from a regularly updated database. I purchase the envelopes and have the return address imprinted at Printgraphix. Dave H affixes neat stamps to each envelope. Justin prepares the president's message and the event calendar, Joe P prepares the minutes, and various members contribute articles, etc. Once all this is ready it takes about a day to edit, proofread, and lay out the pages, another two hours to have the newsletters printed at Printgraphix, and three hours or so (with help from my family) to fold, address, stuff and mail. Each 8-page newsletter costs MNS about \$2 to print (in color) and mail, a \$24 yearly value for only \$10 in annual dues. Some might say that we could save expenses by mailing electronically, but it's not that simple. We want members to look at the newsletter--most people will open an envelope even while they ignore their e-mails. Others don't have computers so we still have to print and mail some hard copies. As collectors we enjoy tangible things, and as long as I'm editor I'll continue our tried and true tradition using the US Postal Service. Even though it's a lot of work, I hope you'll all agree that the finished product is worth the effort!—Leon Saryan (LASaryan@aol.com) [PS: Short articles are always welcome, and we need any address corrections.]

EXOTIC BEASTS ON ROMAN COINS



Emperor Philip I depicted six wild creatures on his coinage as a testament to his far-ranging power.

IN A.D. 248, ROMANS CELEBRATED the 1,000th anniversary of their city's founding. Emperor Philip I (c. A.D. 204-49), known as Philip the Arab, took advantage of the occasion to stage lavish spectacles, chariot races, gladiatorial contests and otherwise commemorate the event. These celebrations included the display of wild animals and exotic beasts that had been brought from all corners of Rome's vast empire.

Examples of this menagerie are depicted on a series of Roman coins struck to commemorate the games that marked the beginning of a new era. An examination of these coins and the animals they portray provides a glimpse of the historical and cultural context in which Romans viewed animals as a source of entertainment.

The Foundation Myth

Roman legend chronicles the founding of Rome by twins Romulus and Remus. The two were said to be the sons of Mars and Rhea Silvia, the daughter of Numitor, once king of Alba Longa. Numitor had been deposed by his brother, and the new king ordered the infants killed. They were set adrift on the Tiber River, but the vessel in which they floated came ashore at the foot of the Palatine Hill. There they were tended to and suckled by a she-wolf. A herdsman named Faustulus found the boys and raised them to manhood. They eventually learned their true heritage and, by force, restored their grandfather Numitor to the throne.

Romulus and Remus went on to found their own city on the Palatine. Ultimately, the brothers quarreled, and Remus was killed after insulting Romulus. The new city took its name, Rome, from Romulus, who upon death was deified, becoming the god Quirinus.

The date of Rome's establishment (rendered as 753 B.C., according to our calendar) had been

determined by ancient Roman historical writers, but is not accepted as factual. Evidence has been found of settlements on the Palatine Hill dating far earlier. However, archaeology shows that by 700 B.C. settlements included the Forum valley. By the following century, monumental buildings and public spaces had been built, marking the site's transformation to an organized city-state.

The Millenium Approaches

Emperor Gordian III (r. A.D. 238-44) must have known that Rome's impending millenium presented an opportunity to showcase his power and accomplishments. The city's 800th- and 900th-year celebrations had been commemorated with games sponsored by Claudius and Antoninus Pius, respectively.

The teenaged emperor, like all pious Romans, thought he was descended from well-educated nobility. He believed Rome's citizens must properly observe traditional religious ceremonies to ensure the city's prosperity and safety.

In A.D. 243, Gordian's armies in the east scored a series of major victories over Persia. The spoils of war were representative of his triumphs and were expected to add luster to the millennial celebrations. Among these trophies were a variety of exotic and wild animals. An ancient writer

► **EXOTIC AND WILD ANIMALS** have long been part of Rome's history. According to legend, twin brothers Romulus and Remus were raised by a she-wolf and later founded the city.

◀ **A LION IS DEPICTED** on a silver antoninianus of Philip I.

Actual Size: 22mm



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

One way of gaining the populace's favor was to provide entertainment, and he used the city's millennium to accomplish this goal.

PHOTO: BRITISH MUSEUM



▲ A FIGHT IN THE COLOSSEUM between a bull and an elephant (with rider) is shown on a medallion of Gordian III. Not Actual Size

recorded the animals Gordian had collected: 32 elephants, 30 leopards, 1 rhinoceros, 10 tigers, 10 hyenas, 10 wild lions, 60 tame lions, 6 hippopotami, 10 giraffes, 10 moose and various other wild creatures.

Unfortunately, Gordian would not live long enough to host the celebration. He died on campaign in Persia, quite possibly as a result of a plot against him by Philip the Arab, commander of the Imperial Guard and subsequent emperor of Rome. Born to a family of humble origins in the Roman province of Syria, Philip strengthened his position with additional military victories across the northern frontier.

Benefactor of the Games

Upon Gordian's death, Philip returned to Rome to secure his power with the Senate and the Roman people. One way to gain the populace's favor and ensure his standing was to provide entertainment, and he used the city's millennium to accomplish these goals. He distributed money and food to the public, and staged lavish games, spectacles, plays and gladiator fights. Wild animals, many of which Rome's citizens had never seen before in current memory, were used in some of these activities or put on display.

The Games

While the favorite event at the games was chariot racing in the Circus Maximus, animal exhibitions also were popular. These creatures often were

tamed and trained. However, violent competitions pitted animal against animal or animal against man. "Hunts" were staged in which men attacked and killed the animals. An earlier medallion of Gordian III (left) shows a fight in the Colosseum between a bull and an elephant with rider.

The Coins

Roman emperors frequently used coinage as propaganda vehicles to enhance their images and proclaim their accomplishments. Following this tradition, Philip had coins struck marking Rome's milestone 1,000th year and his role in arranging the remarkable games. He emphasized the scope of his power by displaying the diverse and broad geographical range of animals depicted on his coinage.

Six different animals, drawn from all corners of the Roman Empire (Europe, Asia and Africa), appear on the reverses of this series: lions, wolves, moose, hippopotami, stag (deer) and antelope. The reverses bear the inscription SAECVLARES AVGG ("the Secular Games of the Augustuses"). The obverses carry portraits of Philip I; his wife, Otacilia Severa; and his son and co-emperor, Philip II.

The coin denomination of choice was the silver double *denarius*, also called the *antoninianus* after the emperor who introduced it. The denarius was the basic silver unit in the Roman imperial coinage system, but by the time of Philip, it had fallen out of favor because of inflation. (It would be replaced by the *antoninianus*.) The radiate crown worn by Philip and his son in their obverse portraits was a distinguishing feature of double-denomination coins, associating the emperors

Identifying Coins by Officina & Animal

OFFICINA	RULER	ANIMAL
I	Philip I	Lion
II	Philip I	She-Wolf
III	Philip II	Moose
IIII	Otacilia	Hippo
V	Philip I	Stag
VI	Philip I	Antelope